



EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY
FOR THE BALTIC
SEA REGION

POLICY AREA

SPATIAL PLANNING

ENCOURAGING THE USE OF MARITIME AND
LAND-BASED SPATIAL PLANNING IN ALL
MEMBER STATES AROUND THE BALTIC SEA AND
DEVELOP A COMMON APPROACH FOR CROSS-
BORDER COOPERATION



Policy area coordinators



CONTENT

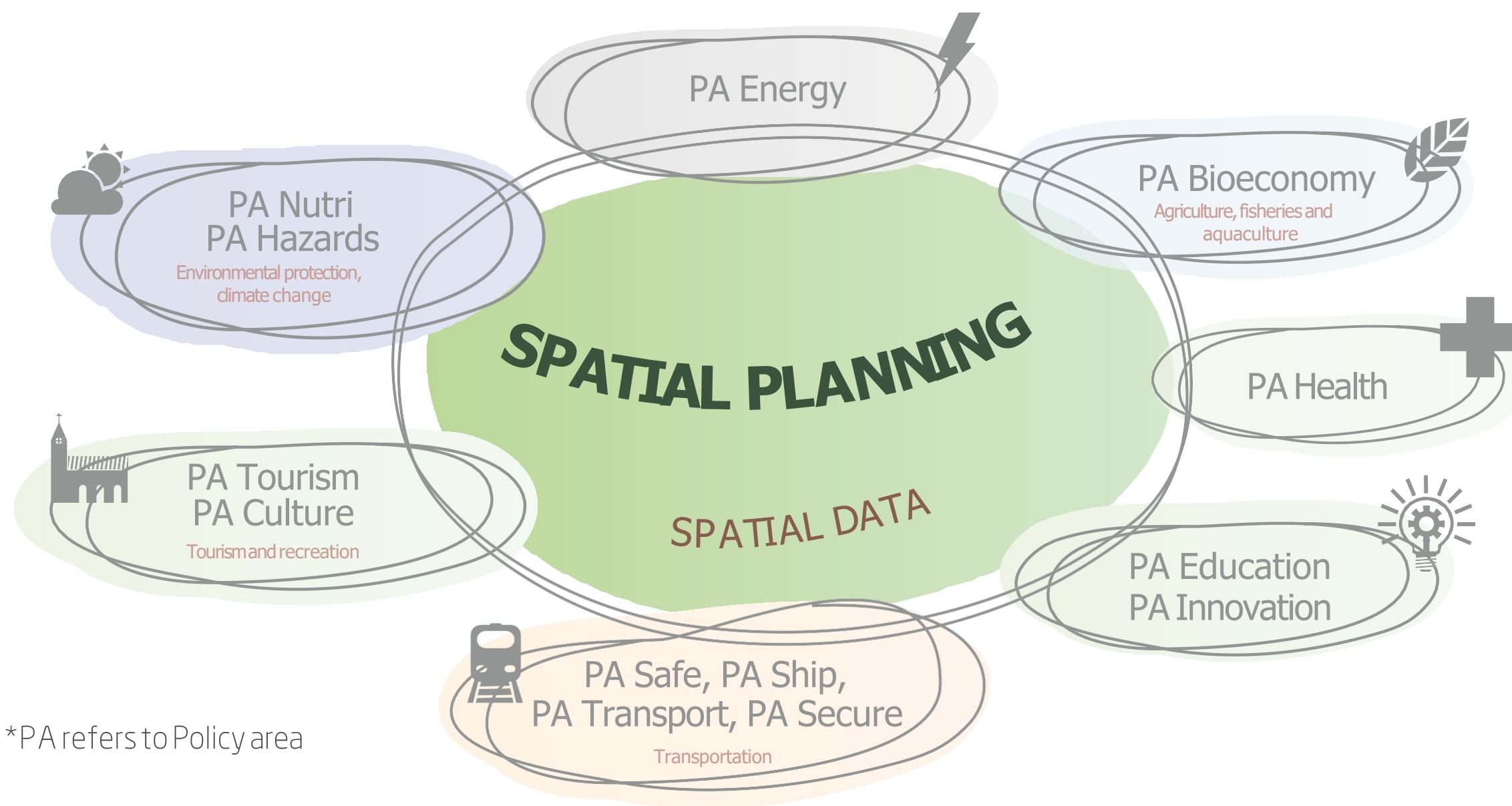
1. What is Policy area 'Spatial Planning'
2. Who is who in Policy area 'Spatial Planning'
3. Land-based spatial planning
4. Maritime spatial planning



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POLICY AREA 'SPATIAL PLANNING' IN EUSBSR FAMILY



Spatial planning is an integrative process to influence the future spatial distribution of human activities. It aims to ensure functional integration across multiple scales (macro-regional, national, regional, local levels) and different sectors of public policy in order to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment, and to achieve social and economic objectives. Spatial planning is therefore an important tool for promoting sustainable development, improving the quality of life and reducing inequalities.

The **overall goal of Policy area 'Spatial Planning'** is to increase territorial cohesion in the Baltic Sea Region. In 2030, the Region shall be a better-integrated and more coherent macro-region, that has reduced socio-economic development divides between its individual parts and has turned global challenges into assets.

Contribution to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 
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WHAT POLICY AREA 'SPATIAL PLANNING' DOES

- ensures transnational approach in spatial planning in the Baltic Sea Region
- facilitates coherent maritime spatial planning accross the borders
- observes the territorial development processes to provide evidence of the development trends of the taken initiatives and actions
- recommends transnational policy measures & promotes methodology development
- provides a forum for macro-regional, trans-boundary and cross-sectoral dialogue and cooperation
- follows and promotes co-operation projects relevant for PA's strategic framework
- facilitates resources alignment for territorial development in different funding programmes



WHO IS WHO IN POLICY AREA 'SPATIAL PLANNING'



VASAB (Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea) is regional intergovernmental multilateral co-operation in spatial planning and development and it is integrated into the network of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) organizations. VASAB member states are: Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden (Russia and Belarus suspended).

VASAB prepares policy options for the territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region and provides a forum for exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development between the Baltic Sea countries.

VASAB is guided by the Conference of Ministers responsible for spatial planning and development, steered by the Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR) composed of representatives of respective ministries and regional authorities.



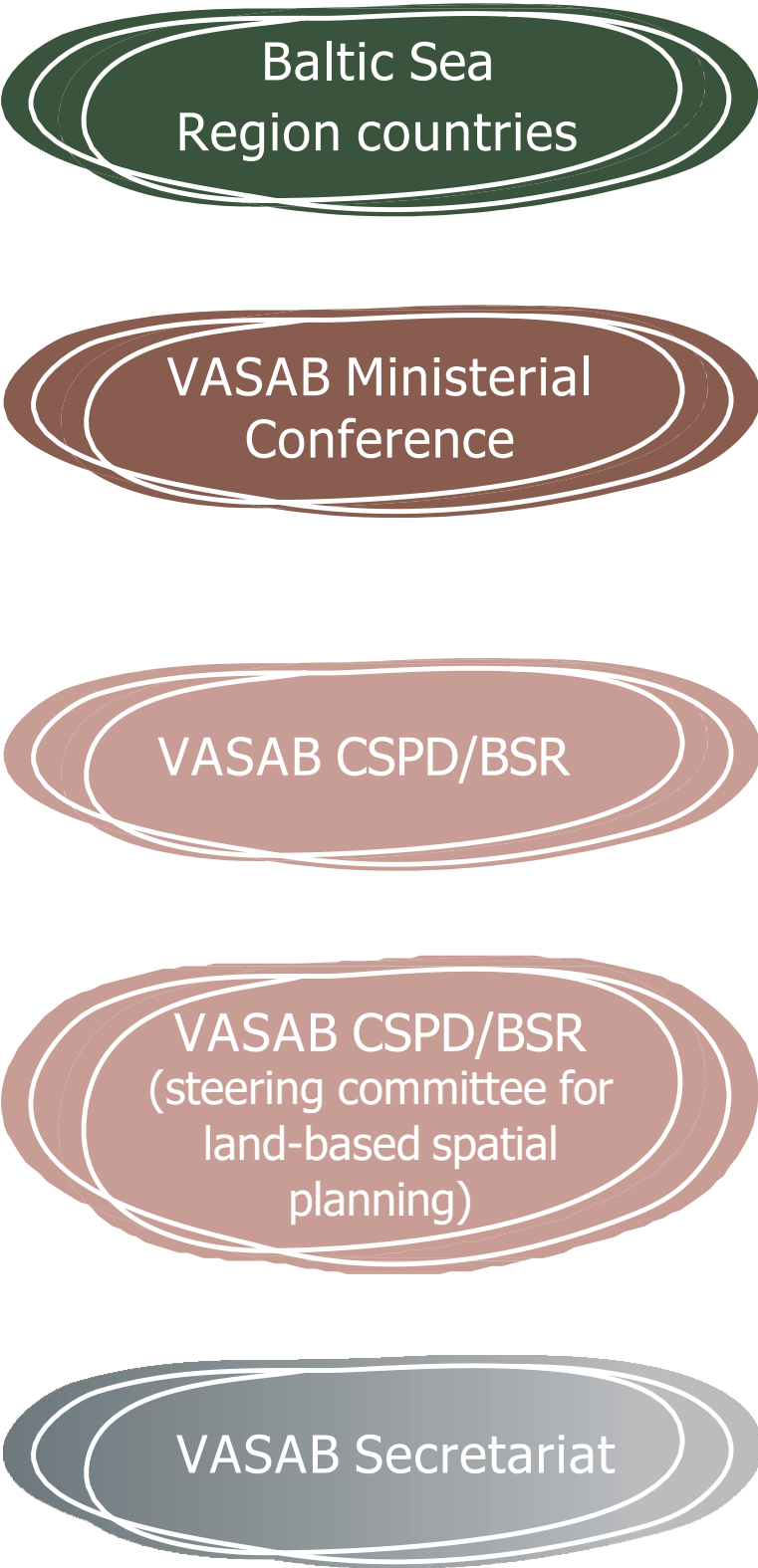
HELCOM (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission) is the governing body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, known as the Helsinki Convention. The Contracting Parties are Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

HELCOM is an environmental policy maker for the Baltic Sea area. The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP 2030) is the key policy agreement guiding regional effort towards environmentally healthy and prosperous Baltic Sea region.

The working structure of HELCOM consists of the Helsinki Commission, the Heads of Delegation, working and expert groups, developing common management solutions and actions to achieve the BSAP goals and objectives.

POLICY AREA 'SPATIAL PLANNING' GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

VASAB



MEMBERSHIP

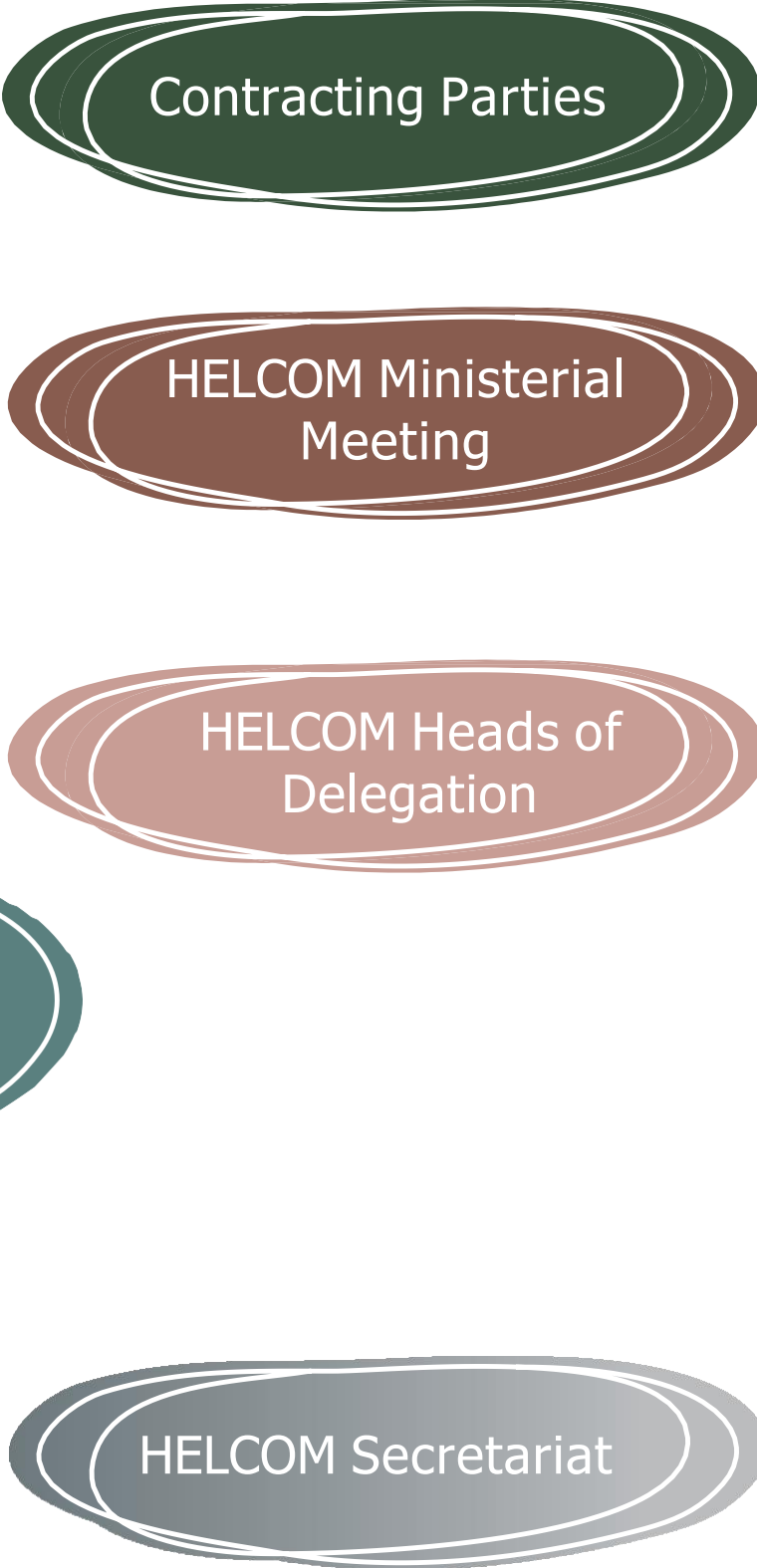
POLITICAL LEVEL

STEERING LEVEL

The Joint HELCOM-VASAB
MSP Working Group
(steering committee for MSP)

BSR MSP Data Expert
Sub-Group

COORDINATION



HELCOM

LAND-BASED SPATIAL PLANNING

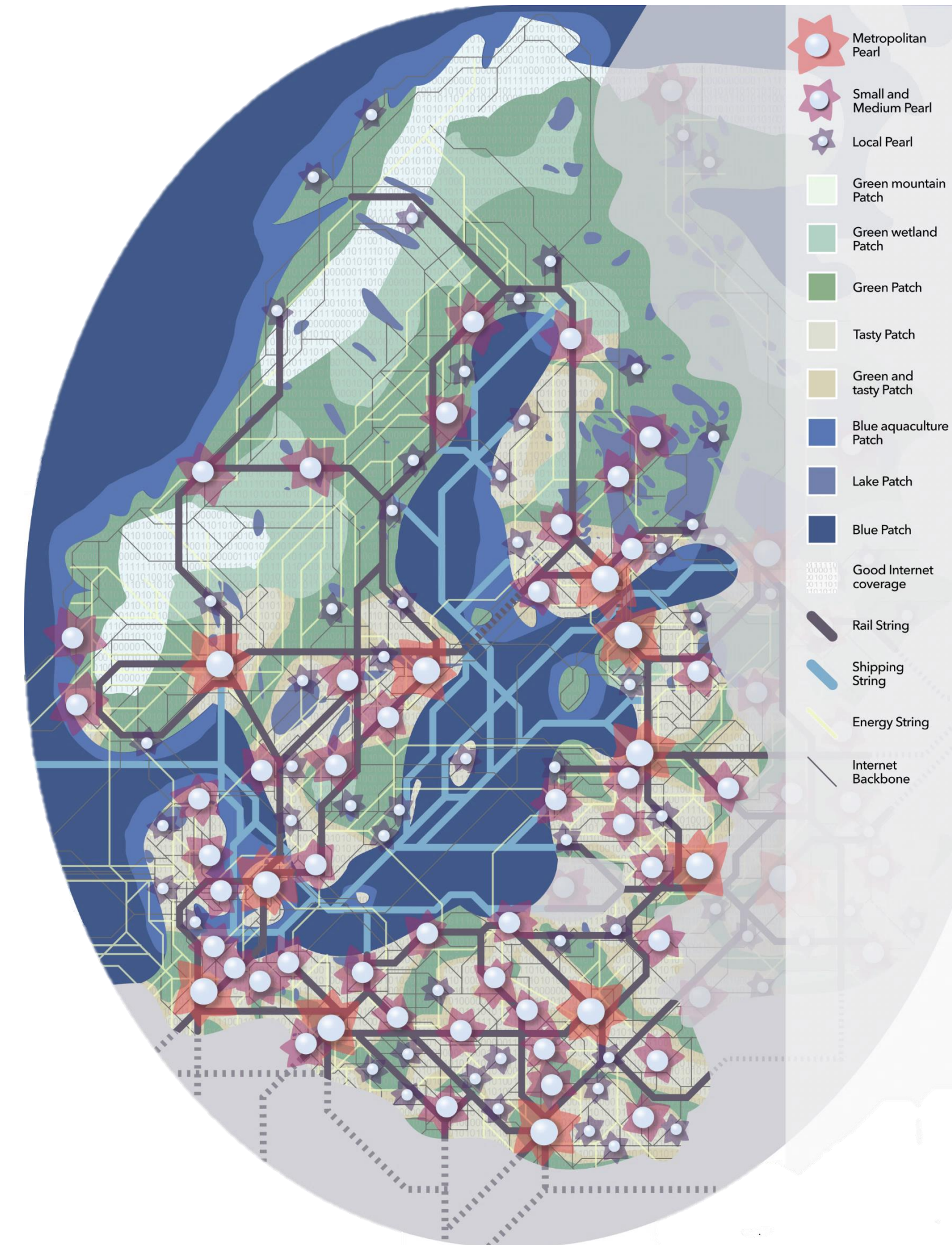
STRENGTHENING TERRITORIAL COHESION IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION THROUGH LAND- BASED SPATIAL PLANNING

Strategic target is to increase the knowledge on land-based spatial planning in BSR by organizing regular thematic events and other activities.

Land-based spatial planning has been carried out by all Baltic Sea Region countries at national, regional and local level. PA ensures a joint framework to follow up territorial development trends and challenges, to build a territorial cohesion perspective for the BSR in the 2030, as well as to propose concrete actions to stimulate territorial development potentials to overcome existing gaps. VASAB has established a common platform, which allows partners to meet, network, exchange knowledge and experiences.

VASAB sketched a first common spatial vision for the Region – ‘Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010’ – (VASAB 2010) that was adopted by ministers responsible for spatial planning in Tallinn in 1994. The VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (LTP) provided more focused actions on urban networking & urban-rural relations, accessibility and management of the Baltic Sea. VASAB Vision for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region 2040 the latest contribution to these efforts, adds a territorial dimension to the EUSBSR and was developed in close cooperation with other policy area coordinators.

VASAB Committee for Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (VASAB CSPD/BSR) provides a coordination platform for the territorial development in the BSR and acts as a Steering Group for PA ‘Spatial Planning’ for land-based spatial planning.



VASAB VISION 2040 AND EUSBSR

VASAB Vision 2040 sets a long-term territorial perspective for a vibrant, resilient, well-connected Baltic Sea Region, comprising the land-based and maritime spatial elements of the Region, respecting its diversities and specificities, and embracing sustainability, integration and cooperation throughout.

To implement spatial planning framework within the EUSBSR and achieve coherent development of the BSR, Policy area aims to:

- contribute to better adaptation of strategies to different types of areas and propose specific approaches for a diverse urban pattern by ensuring pan-Baltic dialogue;
- apply place-based approaches to territorial development policies as well as effective use of functional area's concept and territorial impact assessment tools thereby contributing to the implementation of the Territorial Agenda for the EU;
- observe the territorial development processes in the Region by using and advancing territorial development monitoring solutions;
- encourage transnational actions improving accessibility and connectivity of the Region using potential of TEN-T for regional development;
- contribute to adaptation, mitigation and resilience to climate change in land-based spatial planning process.

MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

ENSURING COHERENT MARITIME SPATIAL PLANS THROUGHOUT THE BALTIC SEA

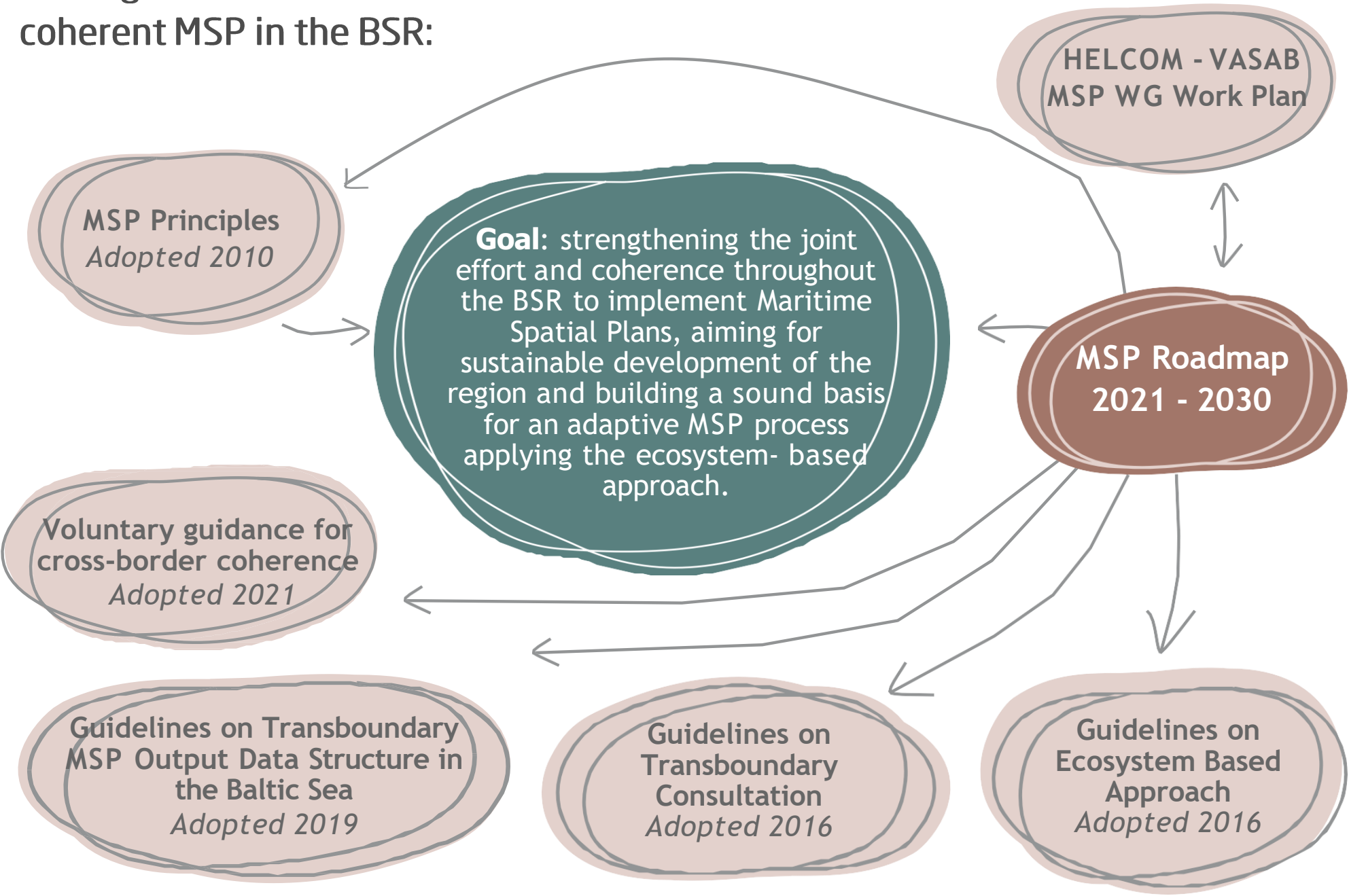
Strategic target is to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the BSR which are coherent across the borders and apply ecosystem-based approach.

Maritime spatial planning (MSP) helps various users to balance sectoral interests that compete for marine space and contribute to achieving sustainable use of marine areas to the benefit of economic and social development as well as the marine environment. MSP has to be aligned with terrestrial planning to ensure land-sea interactions. The establishment and implementation of MSP by applying the ecosystem approach is required by the EU MSP Directive.

The joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group, established in 2010, is the regional platform for cooperation between BSR countries to ensure coherent MSP processes in the cross-border context and pro-active implementation of the EU MSP Directive. It acts as a Steering Group for PA 'Spatial Planning' for MSP.

In 2015 the BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group was established as an expert group under the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group to support data, information and evidence availability for MSP processes across borders. Work of the group has resulted in BASEMAPS – map service to access relevant Baltic Sea MSP data.

Strategic framework to ensure coherent MSP in the BSR:



To ensure a platform for informal cooperation and exchange among maritime spatial planning practitioners, Baltic Sea Region MSP Planners` Forum is organised on regular basis. Participants discuss pressing MSP issues, knowledge gaps and future MSP project needs.

Follow the EUSBSR on:

www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu

FOLLOW & GET INVOLVED

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